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LABOUR ORGANISER

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Situations Vacant

BATH C.L.P. invites applications for the post of Assistant Agent. This is a new appointment; duties will include field work in conjunction with the Secretary/Agent with a view to building up Ward organisation. Bath is an urban constituency with 14 wards; electorate 57,500. The Party has had a full-time Secretary/Agent since 1949. Salary and conditions in accordance with the National Scale. Application forms from **George Easton, 2 Newark Street, Bath**, to whom they should be returned not later than 28th February, 1957.

KING'S LYNN C.L.P. invites applications for the post of full-time Secretary/Agent. The appointment to be made in consultation with the National Executive Committee. Salary in accordance with the National Agreement. Application forms can be obtained from the **National Agent, Transport House, Smith Square, London, S.W.1**, to whom they should be returned not later than 28th February, 1957.

ROTHERHAM LABOUR PARTY AND TRADES COUNCIL invites applications for the post of full-time Agent. The appointment to be made in consultation with the National Executive Committee. Salary in accordance with the National Agreement. Application forms can be obtained from **Councillor J. R. Moran, 214 Kimberworth Road, Rotherham, Yorkshire**, to whom they should be returned not later than 4th March, 1957.

HALIFAX C.L.P. invites applications for the post of full-time Agent. Housing accommodation is available. The appointment to be made in consultation with the National Executive Committee. Salary in accordance with the National Agreement. Application forms can be obtained from the **National Agent, Transport House, Smith Square, London, S.W.1**, to whom they should be returned not later than 28th February, 1957.

ROSSENDALE C.L.P. invites applications for the post of full-time Agent. The appointment to be made in consultation with the National Executive Committee. Salary in accordance with the National Agreement. Application forms can be obtained from the **National Agent, Transport House, Smith Square, London, S.W.1**, to whom they should be returned not later than 28th February, 1957.

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THE LABOUR ORGANISER

EDITOR: A. L. WILLIAMS

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FEBRUARY, 1957

PRICE FIVEPENCE

About the By-Elections

BRITAIN has a new Government, but not a new House of Commons. The Prime Minister stated clearly that there is not to be a General Election, and there is no constitutional reason why there should be one.

As the Tories, despite the deep divisions in their ranks during the Suez Crisis, were successful in maintaining a Parliamentary majority for the Government headed by Sir Anthony Eden, it is too much to expect that they will not do the same for Mr. Macmillan's administration. It is fairly certain that they will prefer to hang together to hanging separately.

General Election

This does not mean necessarily that the present Parliament will run anything like its full course.

Mr. Macmillan will go to the country sooner if it suits him, and it may be that after he has had sufficient time to publicise his team and to formulate a vote-catching policy he will decide on a General Election. Also, it is possible that economic developments will determine that the appeal to the electors will be made rather sooner than later.

Another factor is public opinion. Even with a comfortable Parliamentary majority it would be difficult for the Government to maintain itself if there was a decisive swing of public opinion against it.

The seven by-elections that are pending have been referred to in the usual journalistic manner as 'the little General Election',

but they are not really a representative cross-section of the political pattern, since four of them will take place in what have been regarded as safe Tory seats, one of them in a safe Labour seat and only two in marginal seats, one of which was Liberal.

Six Liberals

At the General Election there were only six Liberals returned (and nearly all of these by agreement with the Tories) but there are 200 marginal constituencies, split almost equally between the Tories and Labour. A relatively slight swing at a General Election could result in a change of Government.

Nevertheless, the result in the seven by-elections can have important consequences for Mr. Macmillan. If Labour does as well in the 'safe' Tory seats as it did at Tonbridge, Chester and Melton Mowbray, and wins Carmarthen from the Liberals and North Lewisham from the Tories the Prime Minister will find it difficult to claim that he has public backing for his Government.

From this point of view, the fight in the 'safe' Tory constituencies is as important as the fight in Carmarthen and North Lewisham, and we urge our readers to treat it as such. Naturally the prospect of actually winning marginal seats will concentrate attention on the campaigns of Lady Megan Lloyd-George and Niall MacDermot. But the task facing Labour in these two seats should not be under-estimated.

Since the 1945 General Election, by-elections have only produced two changes in party representation. In Camlachie the seat was won by Campbell Stephen as an I.L.P. candidate in 1945, though he joined the Labour Party shortly afterwards.

In the by-election the situation was complicated by the intervention of Annie

Maxton, as an I.L.P. candidate, as well as of a Tory, a Scottish Nationalist, an Independent, and a Liberal. Labour won back the seat in the 1950 General Election.

Sunderland South was lost by Labour in 1953, when the Tory converted a Labour majority of 306, in a straight fight at the 1951 General Election, into a Tory majority of 1,175, in a three-cornered fight, where a Liberal secured 2,524 votes.

Tories Abstained

Our candidates at Carmarthen and North Lewisham face anti-Labour majorities of over 3,000 at the last General Election. In recent by-elections the swing against the Tories has been due more to Tory abstentions than to an increase in Labour votes. It is possible that Tories who grumbled that Sir Anthony Eden was not Tory enough may feel reassured with the Government Mr. Macmillan has collected.

In any case it would be foolish to rely on Tory abstentions to win these seats. In both, there are sufficient Labour supporters who abstained last time to win the seats for Labour in the by-elections. All our supporters will have to be identified by a thorough canvass and on polling day our machine must be so efficient as to get the maximum number to the polls.

But even more is required. There have been changes of political opinion among the electors, and the number of 'doubtfuls' has increased sharply in recent by-elections. If a sufficient number of these can be won to Labour, these converts added to supporters who did not vote last time will ensure resounding Labour victories.

Paradoxically, the by-elections might precipitate an early General Election if Labour does very well, or very badly in them. In the first case, the Government would find it difficult to carry on in the face of growing public opposition; in the second, the Government might regard the situation opportune for a renewal of its mandate.

Southend Gains 200

by **GLADYS HUGHES**

THE Eastern Regional Council having set a target for increased membership, the Southend East Constituency Labour Party decided to meet the challenge writes Constituency

Labour Party secretary Gladys Hughes.

Discussing the best method to adopt, it was decided to tackle the job on a ward to ward basis, naming a certain area to be most suitable for the start of the campaign. But, the party leadership had not reckoned on the enthusiasm of the chairman of Victoria Ward.

He asked, on behalf of his members, that his should be the selected ward. Together with a very small band of members they had already begun door-to-door canvassing for new members.

The 'Marked Register' proved to be of the utmost importance for two reasons: it checked the accuracy of the previous canvass, and formed a list of potential members.

The small but willing group of helpers was organised and, to make the work easier, the names and addresses of supporters were transferred to smaller cards, long roads broken into convenient list lengths.

In these TV-happy days a little thought should be given about the best time to knock on the front doors. Southend chose the period from 7 to 8 o'clock for their calls and kept it up five nights a week for a fortnight.

Youth Section

Over 200 new members were enrolled, ranging from 'Y' voters to old-age pensioners. The young members added to those we already had has formed the nucleus for a Youth Section.

At the end of each canvass names and addresses were entered into the membership book and cards were made out ready for issue. So as not to have any time lag before the new members received their cards and made the first payment, the existing collectors agreed to deal with this while new collectors were being found.

It was found during this small campaign that the electors appreciated the fact that a call had been made on them before an election was imminent, and it was decided to keep their goodwill by making a monthly visit to those who had joined the Party.

Once new members have been made ways and means must be found to keep them interested. The ward concerned is doing this by having a speaker, or discussion, at all monthly meetings and by organising concerts, socials and a children's party.

The ward's municipal candidate takes part in all these activities, getting to know his members and so making it easier to ask them to take on a job of work when the election comes along.

Hastings may be Amended

There is a strong probability that the Hastings Agreement will be amended.

This article explains what the Hastings Agreement is and the possible consequences of its amendment.

AT recent Party Conferences there has been an insistent demand that there should be an adjustment of the financial provisions of the Hastings Agreement.

These provisions were last amended in 1948, since when there has been a steep rise in costs, including salaries of constituency agents.

In response to this demand the National Executive Committee has arranged a meeting with representatives of national trade unions, which will consider such changes as are necessary.

APPROVED IN 1933

The Hastings Agreement was so-called because at the Party Conference at Hastings in 1933 approval was given following consultations with trade unions to additional regulations under which the National Executive Committee endorses Parliamentary candidates.

The relevant regulations were as follows:

The financial arrangements between an Affiliated Organisation responsible for the promotion of a Parliamentary Candidate and a Constituency Labour Party shall be the subject of a written Agreement terminable after three months' notice given by either side. The written Agreement shall contain provisions to ensure:

- (a) That the Constituency Labour Party shall itself undertake to pay not less than 20 per cent of the election expenses of such candidate.
- (b) That an Affiliated Organisation shall not undertake to contribute to the election expenses of such candidate a sum in excess of 80 per cent of the actual election expenses, and that in no case shall its contribution exceed 80 per cent of 60 per cent of the maximum expenses allowed by law, based on 5d. per elector in Parliamentary Boroughs and 6d. per elector in Parliamentary Counties. The limited payment shall cover any sum paid to such

candidate in respect of personal election expenses or to an election agent in respect of an election agent's fee.

- (c) An Affiliated Organisation shall not undertake to pay to the funds of a Constituency Labour Party for organisation and registration expenses an annual sum in excess of £150 in a Parliamentary Borough as defined by the National Executive Committee, or £200 in a Parliamentary County.

Where an individual, whether Parliamentary candidate or not, interested in a Parliamentary candidature, makes financial arrangements with a Constituency Labour Party in respect thereto, the restrictions placed upon Affiliated Organisations by the above clauses shall apply in his or her case.

Before the adoption of these regulations, there was no limit to the amount that an organisation sponsoring a candidate, or a candidate personally, could pay to the Constituency Labour Party towards the cost of maintaining constituency organisation and fighting a Parliamentary election.

The imposition of maximum amounts that could be paid, it was thought, would give a fairer chance of selection to unsponsored candidates and would encourage Constituency Labour Parties themselves to meet a larger proportion of the costs of their political activity.

AMENDED IN 1944

These regulations were in force until 1944 when the Annual Conference approved an 'Interim Report on Organisation and Finance', which varied the Hastings decisions by an increase in the sum which organisations and candidates are permitted to pay annually to Constituency Labour Parties from £150 to £200 in borough constituencies and from £200 to £250 in county constituencies.

In 1948, the National Executive Committee proposed to a conference of representatives of trade unions that the maximum annual payment should be raised from £200 in borough and £250 in county constituencies, to £250 and £300 respectively, and that

instead of a payment of up to 80 per cent of 60 per cent of the legal maximum of election expenses, future payments should be up to 80 per cent of the legal maximum. These proposals were approved and the regulations were amended accordingly.

The annual payment is towards the maintenance of the party organisation in the constituency. The Representation of the People Act, 1948, lowered the legal maximum of election expenses and there has been no change since: it varies with the

number of electors and according to whether the constituency is a borough or a county constituency.

How the Hastings Agreement has worked in practice is shown by the fact that at the 1955 General Election there were 128 candidates sponsored by trade unions, 38 sponsored by the Co-operative Party, and 451 for whom financial responsibility was taken by their Constituency Labour Party.

In some cases Constituency Labour Party candidates made a contribution to campaign costs.

Points from the Reports

Two valuable assets for the Labour Party in Plymouth are the Peverell Women's Section Clarion Drama Group, who have performed several plays, and the Sutton Divisional Women's Section choir, who have given very many performances in the city.

* * *

'Your Executive have resolved to explore during the coming year the field of outside advertisements, and we hope you will observe the posters which will be displayed on the hoardings within our constituency during the coming 12 months.'

Annual Report of Sutton C.L.P.

* * *

'After a number of endeavours to form larger Youth Sections your Executive Committee has come to the rather reluctant conclusion that the younger members prefer to work in ward committees rather than as isolated groups of young members. Maybe this desire is a good one and more to the benefit of our Party that segregation in the manner of Youth Sections as is present Party Constitution?'

* * *

'So far as we know, our oldest voluntary contribution collector is Miss Ada M. Judd, who collects from members in both Banister and Bargate wards at the age of 83! There is no possible way of repaying such loyalty to our movement but we do record our appreciation in this report.'

Annual Report of the Southampton Labour Party.

* * *

'A large quantity of the Labour Party's splendidly produced literature was sold and the recent party policy documents on

equality, freedom and housing were among our local post-war "best sellers"!'.

Annual Report of the Southampton Labour Party.

* * *

'The Labour Party has set South Leeds a target of 2,583 members in 1957. This is one member for each 10 Labour voters in the 1955 General Election. This target may be statistically possible, but seems a little remote for next year. I will be content to hope that the 1,250 cards for 1957 now delivered from Transport House will all be used.'

George Murray (secretary) in report for A.G.M. of South Leeds Constituency Labour Party.

* * *

'In a very short time 200 new members were enrolled, and in August we had the assistance of a N.A.L.S.O. canvassing team for 3 days. Most unfortunately it rained heavily during the whole of their stay, in spite of this, however, a further 175 members were obtained.'

Annual Report of Clitheroe C.L.P.

* * *

'Thanks are due to all the workers whose efforts in these and other activities, particularly in collecting members' subscriptions, have so improved the situation. An expected year-end deficit of £350 has thus been charged to a small credit balance. A really fine achievement.'

'... Seats in the local Borough Election in May were held with substantially increased majorities.'

Annual Report of Edmonton C.L.P.

Fashions and Fads in Type

WILLIAM TIMMS, in his article in the January *Labour Organiser*, urged the Labour Party to adopt a 'House style' for its printed publicity. Timms's argument was that if the material put out by the party could be easily recognised by its supporters they would tend to pick it out for reading and ignore that of rival parties and interests.

The validity of this argument is extremely doubtful. As every constituency secretary knows even his members like a change. If he wishes to draw special attention to some activity his party has embarked upon, he strives to make his communication about it different from the routine circulars he is compelled to send out.

Unusual Style

He achieves this by departing from the usual style, using a different colour and shape of paper, perhaps. Sometimes he will introduce cartoons (supplied now by most stencil makers) to lighten the text. Even the use of a different typewriter will make his communication look different.

Among those who are not deeply interested in politics there is a strong resistance to party propaganda. If at first glance a leaflet looks as if it comes from the Labour Party, it is likely to remain unread. If it is *not* obvious that it is a piece of party propaganda and if its argument is sound and is attractively presented it may be read.

Most of our propaganda is directed to those who are apathetic and if their attention is not captured our effort is wasted. Of course, we must avoid the other danger of making our propaganda so unlike what it is, that it looks more like an advertisement for some much-boasted product, which is likely to cause it to meet with even greater reader resistance than would straight political propaganda.

Means must be related to ends. There are occasions when it is important that a Labour publication should be known for what it is immediately. A case in point is an election window bill.

The purpose of a window bill is to demon-

strate popular support for the candidate. These bills should be so easily distinguishable that a mere glance, from the top of a bus or from the garden gate, is sufficient for the observer to understand its message.

The diamond-shaped window bills, so often used by Labour candidates in the south of England do their job admirably. Their shape and colour tell instantly that they are symbols of Labour support and strength.

The use of skilled artists in political propaganda is to be welcomed, but their real value can often be over estimated. In advertising, there is conflict between the copy writer and the artist, and though the copy writer's estimate of the artist's importance need not be accepted, it is reassuring to know that the artist need not always be taken at his own estimation.

One of the defects arising from giving the artist too much scope is that often he makes it almost impossible to read the message of the copy writer. This is because the artist looks at the job as a work of composition. The broadsheet or election address looks fine. The type faces are just right; there is a proper balance between text and blocks, all superfluity has been cut out and there is plenty of white, without the whole thing looking grey. But it is so difficult to break into this artistic composition that it is unlikely that anybody will read its message.

In typography and display there are fashions and fads just as there are in most things. It is important not to take them too seriously. Each job should be studied carefully with a view to finding the best means of getting its particular message across. The pragmatic test is the only test when it comes to publicity.

STANLEY PAIGE

Woolwich is Right!

WOOLWICH is right. Subscriptions should be raised. One can argue about the sum which would be appropriate, but there can be no doubt that 6d. per month is too little.

Take the case of the Cities of London and

Westminster Party. We are a small party, working in one of the strongest of Tory strongholds. Our present membership is about 350. With a Labour vote in the 1955 General Election of 13,270, membership could obviously be much larger—if the over-worked group of twenty or so active workers who are party officers, ward officers, Co-operative Party officers, collectors, election workers, etc., could be increased.

We know that every time we find a new collector, we can increase our membership by just as many members as he or she is prepared to visit.

Incomplete Collection

The National Executive apparently thinks that because many parties collect only four or five shillings from each member per year, there would be resistance to an increased subscription. This view is in my opinion based on a failure to appreciate the reason for incomplete collection of subscriptions.

In my experience, gained not only in Westminster, parties fail to collect the full annual subscription because the collector calls irregularly, and cannot then collect arrears. If collections are regular, people will pay, and the vast majority will pay 9d. as readily as 6d. And if a collector does slip up on his job, and only calls six times in a year, still at 9d. he would have collected 4s. 6d., instead of 3s. The Party would at least be eighteen pence better off!

We have, when the ward, the London Labour Party, and the Labour Party nationally have each had their share, 3s. 6d. of each of our members' subscriptions left. Some of that, on present membership, will be needed to pay the affiliation on 450 hypothetical members. We hope to raise our membership, but there is a temptation to take the easy way out, and pay the extra affiliation fees by running another jumble sale.

Their Party

One of the greatest real assets a party can have is its individual members, thinking of the Party as *their* Party, identifying themselves with its fortunes, receiving its literature and spreading its views.

The monthly subscription should not be so low that parties are forced, willy-nilly, to abandon membership as a major source of revenue, and turn instead to jumble sales and football pools.

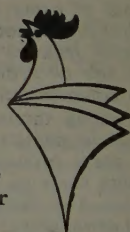
HUGH GARSIDE

CANDIDATES

THE following were endorsed as prospective Parliamentary Candidates by the National Executive Committee recently:

Wokingham	Mr. T. G. Boston
Stockport North ..	Mr. M. E. J. Swain
Chigwell	Mr. A. Harman
Southampton Test	Mrs. S. V. Williams
Gillingham	Mr. G. B. Kaufman
Rutland & Stamford	Mr. Christopher Attlee
North Lewisham ..	Mr. N. MacDermot
Kingston-on-Thames	Mr. C. S. Isaac
Wimbledon	Mr. L. M. Kershaw
Carmarthen	Lady Megan Lloyd George
Barry	Mr. D. R. Evans
Bute & North Ayrshire	Mr. D. Lambie
Rutherglen	Mr. E. J. Milne
Glasgow, Craigton	Mr. B. Millan
Glasgow, Kelvingrove	Mrs. M. A. McAlister

Speaking to Britain



This may well be the Labour Movement's year of opportunity.

Within the Movement we have unity. But outside there is need for a still wider knowledge and understanding of the principles and policies of the Labour Party and Trade Unions.

The DAILY HERALD has a unique part to play in this. Every day, as it always has done, it will drive home the Movement's point of view, preparing the ground for the day that will bring Labour back again into power.

SPEAKING FOR LABOUR

DAILY HERALD

I TOOK THAT FULL-TIME COURSE

by J. Shorrock

AS stated in the May 1956 issue of the *Labour Organiser*, courses have been instituted for the training of full-time agents.

The first course started in May 1956, and at the end of it, all the students were fixed up with posts.

The second course started in October 1956, and I was one of the fortunate seven chosen to take it. So, on Sunday, 7th October, I travelled from Cornwall to London. If I hadn't had relatives to stay with, the Labour Party would have arranged accommodation with Party members, as they did for most of my colleagues.

FRIENDLINESS PREVAILED

On Monday morning I reported to the headquarters of London Labour Party, in some trepidation, not knowing quite what to expect. There I found my fellow students, and we introduced ourselves. Before long we were calling each other by our Christian names, and friendliness prevailed throughout the course.

Along came our tutor, Len Sims, who quickly put us at ease with a friendly chat.

The first month was spent in the Boardroom of London Labour Party. The subjects we covered were many, and were made most interesting by Len Sims.

Besides the Party constitution, we covered such subjects as 'Functions of Party Officers', 'Organisation', 'Registration and Franchise', 'Election Procedure', 'Representation of the People Acts', 'Canvassing systems', and a host of others. Wherever possible, these lectures were illustrated, and speakers came from Transport House to explain procedure in their particular departments. The speakers we had included Len Williams, Sara Barker, Morgan Phillips, George Wright, and Ian Mikardo.

FIRST MONTH

You may think a lot was put in during this first month. As the Westerns say—'You're darned tootin'! Yes, a lot was put in, and I'll be the first to say that at times I didn't know whether I was on my head or my heels. However, it was made so interesting that before long we were able to make the jigsaw fit together.

Besides lectures we had a certain amount of writing up to do, and questions to answer. That first month went all too quickly.

During the second month, the Chester by-election broke, and two students went there. They agreed afterwards that the experience was stimulating. Two students went to Oxford for a special canvass, and the other three went to London constituencies. Back to London for the third and final month, with more lectures and revision.

HORRIBLE WORD

Then, after Christmas, came the week we had all been dreading. EXAMS. What a horrible word! However, as we had had some revision at home over Christmas, the exams were not as bad as we expected. They took the form of written questions, on all the subjects we had touched upon. Naturally, as soon as we had handed a paper in, we realised where we had gone wrong.

Before Christmas, we had, at intervals, been for interviews for agencies, and as has been reported in the January *Labour Organiser*, we were nearly all fixed up. By the time this is read, we shall all be fixed up.

During the course, we were well supplied with text books and materials, and such books as could not be supplied were made available for study.

Friday, 4th January, was the last day, and we had a celebration party in the evening, to thank Len Sims, and say farewell to one another.

THANK YOU

May I now say 'Thank you' to those who made it possible for me to attend this course.

First of all my thanks to Mrs. A. V. Hayman, J.P., O.B.E., who first told me about the courses, and who put me on the right track. Secondly to Mr. E. V. Rees, Western Regional Organiser, for submitting my name, and recommending me. Thanks, Ted. Without the valuable help of these two, I would never have taken the course, nor would I now be agent for Blackley.

On behalf of my colleagues and myself many thanks to the staff of Transport House for the help and advice you gave us.

Finally, a word to future students: Keep your noses to the grindstone. You have the best of tutors in Len Sims, and I hope you appreciate him as we did.

HOW THE SMALL LOT

THE Small Lotteries and Gaming Act of 1956 has now been operating for a number of months and, as a result, a number of minor difficulties have been experienced, both in respect of interpretation of certain sections of the Act and its administration.

The first problem arose with organisations who ran weekly competitions and who planned to operate up to the maximum permitted under the Act. This maximum is ticket sales of £750, with £100 as top prize, and a total of £375 to be dispensed in prize money. Such competitions, if run throughout the year, could hardly be described as 'small' lotteries.

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However, it would appear that provided they kept strictly within the requirements of the Act, and so planned the distribution and sale of tickets so that no ticket was made available to the public before the week in question, there is nothing to stop such lotteries from operating. Many football and cricket supporters' clubs are in fact operating and are apparently doing very well.

What does seem important to me is that to run such a scheme the sale of tickets must be guaranteed, or alternatively, provision must be made to the effect that, in the event of insufficient tickets being sold, the prize money will be 50 per cent of the sales and the prize money amended accordingly.

If the sale of tickets does fluctuate week by week there appears to be a danger in offering specific prizes that might exceed the 50 per cent laid down in the Act.

It would not be possible in the case of weekly competitions to shelter behind Section 1 (3) (b) of the Act, which says:

It shall be a defence for any person charged with an offence in respect of an appropriation or payment made in contravention of paragraph (c) or paragraph (h) of sub-section 2 to prove that the proceeds of the lottery fell short of the sum reasonably estimated, and that the appropriation or payment was made in respect of the expenses actually incurred, or in order to fulfil an unconditional undertaking as to the prizes given in connection with the sale of the relevant tickets or chances

As so many societies run weekly competitions, the question of making returns to the local authority is quite a problem—from the point of view of the promoter, the auditors, and the local authority.

One local government journal reports the view of some local government officials. It is felt by some that as the Act provided for a return to be made not later than the end of the third month after the month in which a lottery was decided, it would be possible to make quarterly returns.

These returns would show the amounts collected over the 13 weeks; the sums paid out in prizes; the appropriate expenses; and the amount applied for the purposes of the society.

It was also suggested that, attached to the quarterly return, particulars of each week's lottery should be given. This would considerably ease the work of everyone concerned, but whether or not all local authorities would agree it is not possible to say. The Act requires a return for each lottery. It is argued that a weekly competition is a continuing lottery.

Another item needing clarification was Section 1(2) (b) which states that 'no remuneration shall be paid in respect of the lottery to the promoter or to any person employed by him in connection therewith, who carries on a betting business or is otherwise engaged by way of business in the organisation of betting'. One reading of this Section made it appear that payment could be made to a promoter who was not engaged in any way with the business of betting.

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Legal opinion, however, says that this is not so. The promoter cannot receive any remuneration, only those assisting the promoter can be paid as long as they are not in any way connected with betting. Such remuneration would, of course, have to be included in the 10 per cent which is allowed for expenses.

It would also seem that the practice of giving a complimentary ticket with each book of tickets or the payment of a commission is causing some concern. The Act is quite clear on the former. Section 1 (2) (f) states:

The price of every ticket or chance shall be the same, and the price of any ticket

RIES ACT IS WORKING

shall be stated on the ticket.

So widespread is the practice of giving complimentary tickets that it has been suggested the law be amended to permit it to operate.

The desire to amend the Act is not just confined to the question of permitting complimentary tickets or the granting of a discount, but also in respect of provision which restricts expenses to 10 per cent of the proceeds.

Those operating successful weekly competitions, and those who can operate a lottery which draws in the maximum permitted under the Act, have no problem in respect of these limited expenses. It is the small party running a small lottery, and organisations such as the local cricket club which run one or two lotteries among a restricted circle that find printing costs alone exceed 10 per cent of the income. Some graduated scale is being advocated so that as the turnover rises so the percentage of expenses is reduced.

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Some small clubs, in order to make a profit, seek prizes from local shopkeepers or leading members of the club. Doubt has arisen as to the legality of this as Section 1 (2) (1) says that 'no payment on account of expenses or prizes shall be made out of monies of the society'

It is argued, however, that this does not rule out gifts, and that it would be stressing the provision too far to say that the money value of the gift can be deemed to be within the term 'monies of the society'—especially if the gift was a bottle of wine, a box of chocolates, etc. Some opinions expressed in local government journals uphold the view that it is possible to make a gift of the prizes.

Another point which was dealt with in the October issue of the *Labour Organiser* was in respect of the registration of societies. This has also been discussed at length. The general view is that where a society has no official address, then the address of the Hon. Secretary should be given.

The intention of the Act, it is felt, is to see that the registration has some feature of permanency, and as it is the secretary's address to which all business communications of the society would be directed, this would meet the situation.

Secretaries, of course, change from time to time, especially at this time of the year when so many annual meetings are held. When a change of secretary does take place, it is necessary to notify the local authority of that change.

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It will be seen that most of these problems do not affect established parties who run draws from time to time. It is the small lottery that has the most difficult task, as it must keep within the 10 per cent expenses and yet try to compete against lotteries offering larger prizes. The weekly competition (some of which are not so very large) have only to ensure that they comply with the requirements of the Act.

One of the most serious matters that has arisen following the passing of the Act, is that of the possibility of a society having to pay Income Tax. However, a written answer given by Mr. Henry Brooke, M.P., the then Financial Secretary to the Treasury, on the 14th December last, stated:

The football pool in this particular case was organised on the basis that a specified percentage of the sum received from each competitor would be paid as a gift to the football club. The Special Commissioners have held that this donation element formed no part of the receipts to be taken into account in computing for Income Tax purposes the profits of the trade of promoting the pool. This decision will be accepted by the Inland Revenue as governing all cases where a football pool or small lottery is run by a supporters' club or other society on the basis that a stated percentage or fraction of the cost of each ticket or chance will be given to a club or body established and conducted wholly or mainly for one or more of the purposes specified in sub-section (1) of Section 1 of the Small Lotteries and Gaming Act, 1956.

While it is by no means certain that such a ruling would cover lotteries run directly by the Party, it does seem to be hopeful. We are seeking opinion as to how best parties can operate to avoid there being any chance of having to pay any Income Tax. Should anything definite result, it will be reported at the earliest possible moment.

Len Sims

How display can help to sell our policy

WILLIAM THOMAS

THE coming of the municipal elections may well be a good time to help out by suggesting another look at 'Basic Shells' and their uses.

The idea behind the supply of these sheets was to provide in compact form a whole series of basic structures, or 'bare bones', which might be modified to suit local requirements in the initial stages of preparation of local literature.

It is a great help to have something in the hand when talking to a printer or a committee if only to find out in a less discomfiting way what it is they don't want.

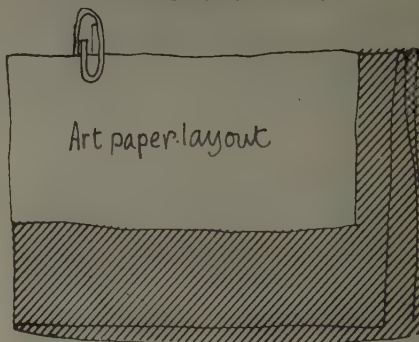


It is most disheartening to spend some considerable time working out an idea in a vacuum only to find that you have stumbled across the very thing they thought they would like you to avoid.

With regard to the use of 'Basic Shells' one agent to whom I spoke some time ago had used the layouts without cutting them out. I am sure it is not really worth trying to save time since the struggle of trying to work out 'what goes where' in this fashion does not in any way compare with the ease of showing the idea when the layouts are cut and folded.

If you ask one of your local helpers to take over this task for you, you would do well to indicate two or three of the layouts for which he might make full-size dummies. Since these 'addresses' are all one-quarter of the final areas, you might care to suggest the following procedure:

1. Cut selected layout from sheet. Then, before folding it;
2. take a thin plain piece of paper and fold lightly twice;
3. tuck selected layout into pocket thus formed and trim off all the area shaded in the accompanying drawing;



4. now fold selected layout as indicated on it in red and repeat on your larger plain sheet;
5. cut a large picture from a newspaper and fold twice;
6. measure off against picture area on layout and then cut and unfold (not applicable to shaped half-tones except as a rough guide);
7. paste on plain paper in position;
8. cut areas of type of the appropriate size (preferable from a previous job by the printer you intend to use) and paste down into position also;
9. mark in heavy type settings with a carpenter's or similar heavy pencil.

Approached in this way it becomes a job you can hand out to anyone who has

scissors and paper but shares my own dislike of measure and maths. A word count can be made of the type areas and the layout marked in the appropriate place before the whole job is handed to you the following morning.

If you wish to start from scratch yourself commence from the envelope you propose to use and which you are confident is in good supply. Try to avoid a type and size that suggests a very dull circular. This envelope, less a quarter of an inch both ways, will be your 'unit size'. That is to say when you work on the final size sheet, the folds in it will all fall at intervals of this measure.



Try to cut wordage down to a minimum. If you can't avoid a long message, break it up well with pictures or sub-headings. Use at least 12 point type unless a smaller size is absolutely unavoidable. It is fortunate in this respect that one of the best

examples I could show you of the limit of small type set solid, but still comfortable to read is the *Labour Organiser*.

However, the nearer you get to these limits the more careful you must be about column width and the length of unrelieved areas of reading.

Where you are not too hard pressed for cash, do pay that little extra that makes the job a better quality representative of your local party. If you are selective and 'sell' your three or four main points well, instead of including every single argument you feel to be in your favour, it should be possible to arrive at a result that will carry far more reader impact.

I am more than aware that this has all been said before, but you know how it is with advice . . . we want it, but only to confirm what we have already decided. It is more than I dare do to write on this subject and not quote these time-worn guides.



NEW COURSE STARTS

THE third three-months' full-time training course for agents started on the 21st January with six students. The students are: Mr. R. G. L. Martin (Surbiton), Mr. W. S. Rickman (London), Mr. J. Stonehouse (Scarborough), Mr. J. B. White (Nottingham), Mr. B. R. Jones (Reading), Mr. F. Aveyard (Burley).

Five of the seven students who completed the second three-months' course have received agency appointments.

Mr. P. Allison has gone to East Dunbarton, Mr. J. Rafferty to Hexham, Mr. E. T. Mawdsley to Lowestoft, Mr. H. Nairn to Colne Valley, and Mr. J. J. Shorrock to Blackley.

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What Makes a Good Chairman?

THERE is no art which gives a deeper sense of satisfaction than the art of good chairmanship. Nor is there any art which is more difficult to practise.

An organisation which possesses such an officer is very fortunate. His leadership can not only make a vital contribution to its efficiency and influence, but his example can be an inspiration to all its members.

Two principal factors decide the quality of chairmanship. The first is procedural knowledge which will enable him to control and conduct a meeting in a manner which expedites business to the satisfaction of members. The second is quality of character which will add colour and power to his efficiency.

He requires to know and to be able to interpret the rules and standing orders of the organisation over which he presides and a sound general knowledge of accepted procedural practice.

Knowledge of this kind is indispensable to successful chairmanship but it is not sufficient in itself. A chairman must be capable of applying his knowledge and conducting the meeting with impartiality, firmness, tact and good humour.

Personal Likes

The chairman, like the rest of us, has his personal likes and dislikes. He may have a great admiration for the ability and integrity of Bill Smith. He may mistrust the irresponsibility of Tom Brown. They are, however, both members and, therefore, his likes and dislikes must be thrust into the background and his impartiality must come to the fore.

His impartiality will pay dividends. If a chairman is unjust to a person, who is regarded as being irresponsible, his attitude may result in the irresponsible individual receiving support he otherwise would not be given.

Impartiality also rewards a chairman when he must take a firm stand. Once an organisation recognises that a chairman takes an impersonal attitude it will tend to accept his

firm decisions as being based on just motives. Winning the respect of a meeting means gaining authority.

The quality of tact is also of untold value. Tact requires patience and a chairman who wishes to draw out the qualities of all members must exercise patience.

Mixed Qualities

Every organisation has a membership of mixed qualities. Nevertheless almost every member has something worth while to contribute. There is the type who appears to be an authority on everything and will dominate a meeting if allowed to do so. There is the quieter type of member who is hesitant to compete with what appears to be an expert.

A tactful chairman is capable of giving 'Johnny Know-all' a loose rein occasionally but tightening up in order to bring into the discussion the more reticent member whose contribution very often proves to be of real value.

Then there is the quality of good humour. One of George Bernard Shaw's great qualities as a playwright was the ability to bring realisation to an audience that in laughing at the idiosyncrasies of the characters in the play that they were really laughing at themselves.

A chairman whose good humour and insight can get a meeting laughing at itself or individuals laughing at themselves is a treasure and can save many an unpleasant situation.

Graciousness in the chair is also a virtue. Think of the new member who has come along to a meeting for the first time. He or she may sit quietly at the back of the room and far too often is allowed to slip away without a shake of the hand or a word of welcome.

It is a simple matter for the chairman to look around before a meeting opens, make a special point of greeting the new members personally and make reference to their presence in his opening remarks. It makes a world of difference to the newcomer.

Perhaps a member has been absent for some time owing to illness or some other good reason. What could be better than a few special words of welcome.

The chairman's attitude as a whole is of tremendous importance. He can make or

mar a meeting by the atmosphere he creates from the start. It is his duty to welcome all members in his opening remarks and in so doing his choice of words, the tone of his voice, the expression on his face, can either make members feel it has been well worth making the effort to turn out or that a chair beside the fire would have been a much better idea.

Conscience Won

Most of us have had the experience of debating within ourselves on a miserable night whether we would attend a ward or other party meeting. In the end conscience won the day and we have trudged through the bad weather to find a small attendance.

Think of the effect of a miserable-looking and sounding chairman who opens the meeting by lecturing those present on the small attendance. Then think of the reverse effect of a cheery-faced chairman who gives a special welcome and a pat on the back to the heroes and heroines.

His suggestion that though few in number we are rich in quality and here is a chance of a lifetime to get on with the business at record speed fills us all with a well earned glow of self-righteousness.

The chairman's relationship with his fellow officers is also of great importance. In the best of organisations difficulties are bound to arise and an understanding chairman can often pour oil on troubled waters. He can sense trouble between officers and by frank talk of an informal character can often clear up what are simply misunderstandings, thus restoring harmony.

Good relationships between the chairman and the secretary are of utmost importance. There are times when a chairman feels he has not been fully primed prior to a meeting and has not, therefore, the grip on business which he wishes to have. Rather than feel aggrieved and let annoyance grow into anger the chairman should have a confidential chat with the secretary. Very often what appears to have been deliberate neglect is forgetfulness.

Galvanise Executive

A dynamic chairman can also galvanise an Executive Committee. He can inspire its members with leadership and give it confidence to become the spearhead of the General Committee.

The chairman of a delegate body has the responsibility of encouraging its members to approach their duties with a wide vision. It has been said in an earlier article that a General Committee is responsible for the

well-being of the whole Party. By his own acceptance of this principle he can help to overcome that spirit of parochialism which too often dwarfs the outlook and achievements of delegate bodies.

The series of articles on procedure dealt with many of the chairman's duties therefore no useful purpose would be served in going into great detail again. A refresher on the principle procedural points might, however, be of value.

It is the chairman who approves the order of the agenda after it has been prepared by the secretary. Unless, of course, it is an agenda which has been agreed by a committee. After he has declared the meeting open and made his remarks of welcome he should read the agenda. If the order of business is challenged he must either agree to an amendment if he feels it justifiable or, if not, must take a vote and let the meeting finally determine the order of business.

Signs Minutes

He signs and dates minutes and initials all corrections. He must be very precise in dealing with minutes and not permit discussion on minutes which are simply being presented for accuracy.

He is entitled to be informed of the nature of correspondence which is to come before a meeting. It is essential that he is alerted on its content. He has a right to decide if certain items are of such importance that they should appear as special items on the agenda.

If he is presiding over an Executive Committee meeting he should persuade that body to deal with as much correspondence as possible and make recommendations thereon to the General Committee. This saves valuable time at the General Committee meeting.

Another important item is the receiving of reports. They are often of great importance and it is the chairman's duty to ensure time for their presentation. In this respect he has three duties:

1. To ask for a formal motion that the report be received as having been read or given, as the case may be.
2. To give opportunity for action on the report, if necessary.
3. To ask for its approval, if approval is required.

A wise chairman will never forget to ensure that the delegates are thanked for their services.

One of his chief responsibilities is to ensure the good conduct of debate. He should

know the golden rules outlined in earlier articles.

Most authorities are agreed that a chairman should not participate in debate except in committee, unless he is speaking on behalf of a committee or it is the unanimous desire of the meeting that he should do so. In these circumstances it is unnecessary for him to leave the chair.

Voting Rights

The chairman's voting rights have also been fully explained. Sufficient to remind readers that as a delegate he has certain rights to vote but in the interests of good chairmanship he would be well advised to forget that right except on occasions when a ballot vote is taken.

A firm impartial chairman experiences little difficulty in keeping order. It is his responsibility to do so. When a member persists in being disorderly a chairman has a right to 'name' him and that person is forthwith expelled from the meeting.

When general disorder prevails which fortunately is a rare occurrence, the chairman may leave the chair. His action terminates business and any transactions which follow his departure are invalid.

If, however, the chairman vacates the chair because his own rulings have been successfully challenged and another chairman has been temporarily appointed, business will proceed.

The dignity of a chairman on such occasions is a test of his character. He cannot always be right. If he accepts the decision of the meeting when he is in error, his final authority becomes strengthened.

Like all arts, the art of chairmanship cannot be perfected without practise. Even people with the natural gifts of chairmanship and procedural knowledge, learn their most valuable lessons from the chair.

So do not lose heart if you are but a beginner. If you want to do a grand job for the Party make up your mind to become a good chairman.

TO THE
EDITOR

IT WAS BEFORE 1918

THE January issue of the *Labour Organiser* contains in the article entitled 'An Industrial Experiment' a statement which is misleading if not technically inaccurate.

It states that 'It was not until 1918 that the Labour Party opened its ranks to individual members, and these are now numbered by hundreds of thousands.'

I personally became a member of the Woolwich Labour Party in 1905 and shortly afterwards became Secretary of the Abbey Wood Ward and a member of the W.L.P. Executive.

I was certainly a member of my professional organisation but that body has never been, and is not likely to become, affiliated to the Labour Party. I joined as an individual member and when I joined there were already many members of the Woolwich Labour Party who had joined as individual members.

These included such prominent members of the movement as Charles Grinling, an ordained clergyman of the Church of England and founder of the old *Woolwich Pioneer* newspaper, Dr. Hughes, vicar of St. Mark's Church, Plumstead, Jimmy Newman and Tom Davis, both schoolmasters, members of the National Union of Teachers, and both afterwards Mayors of Woolwich.

There were many other individual members of the Woolwich Party in 1905 and it is

highly improbable that Woolwich stood in splendid isolation.

I am sure you will agree that the statement which I have quoted is misleading and, in fact, inaccurate.

F. W. J. Thomas

It is of course true that some local Labour Parties did have individual members long before 1918, but our reference was to THE Labour Party and it was not until 1918 that individual membership was recognised nationally.

—EDITOR.

QUOTE L99777

THE Labour Party now has a Co-operative Society Trading Number. By occasionally quoting L99777 when purchasing at Co-ops in the national membership scheme, individual members and affiliated organisations can help the Party's national funds.

PLANNING AN ELECTION LAYOUT

INTENSIFICATION of effort in electioneering consists of three parts.

These are:

- (i) *Selectivity* in timing and approach.
- (ii) *Speed* in preparation and operation.
- (iii) *Accuracy* in attack.

These requisites cannot easily be obtained, and are quite unobtainable unless the local organisation is soundly based and the central organisation is properly established.

Experience in the recent election among parties which secured a high degree of intensification, suggests a form of organisation, at ward and polling district level. It is not claimed that there is anything new in this conception but, setting it down in a formal manner may provide the basis for a discussion on the part to be played by *establishment* in the raising of election efficiency.

Ward Organisation

The ward and polling district organisation has its place somewhere between the Central Committee Room organisation on the one hand, and the street or sector on the other.

Central Committee Room organisation in a representative intensively-run constituency consisted of:

- The Agent
- A General Assistant
- A Canvass Organiser
- A Removals Officer
- A Meetings Officer
- An Odd Job Man.

The Removals Officer (a woman) acted also as Receptionist.

This establishment ran at full strength for just over two weeks, but some of the officers were in operation for over three weeks.

The street or sector element of organisation was nowhere so well developed, but in parts of several constituencies a distributive machine, based upon a 'Street Captain' who acted as the distributor of the small parcels of literature (usually delivered to the house of the Street Captain) was able to relieve the Branch Committee Room of a good deal of routine work.

As a rule, no difficulty exists in getting people to promise to undertake the modest functions of street distributor and the reason that this method of distribution is not very widely adopted is not lack of potential 'Street Captains' so much as that the group

TO have an efficient central organisation for an election early planning is necessary. Here is a layout tested in recent By-Elections which could be adopted to most constituencies in the country.

method of distribution is somewhat easier to organise.

It is possible, however, to secure much more effective help from really good street contacts and for some of these to be developed into real street leaders. Experience in some constituencies shows that this development is largely conditioned by the efficiency of Branch (and Area) Committee Rooms—and that this, in turn, depends upon an establishment of personnel at this level capable of making the most of street contacts where they exist and of creating them in other cases.

Ward and polling district organisation in these constituencies is therefore as much a directive element as an operational element in the apparatus of the election.

In these, the Branch Committee Room is run by a Polling District Officer who is in general charge of the district. He has the assistance of a Chief Canvasser and of a Chief Distributor. It is not usually necessary or even desirable for these officers to be so named, but that is what they are. These two workers act as leaders in their respective activities and, frequently, look after the administrative detail as well.

Information Service

The existence of this trio of officers permits a certain amount of specialisation by each and, under these conditions the existence of contacts in each street or sector can be developed to create an *Information Service*. This can be used as the means either of carrying out the information canvass, or of doing the conversion canvass in the street or sector concerned after the information canvass has been otherwise conducted.

It is becoming increasingly obvious that,

(Continued on page 39)

Why Organisations are Proscribed

THE Labour Party List of Proscribed Organisations receives wide publicity, yet there is a great deal of misunderstanding about what it is and how it came into being.

In 1920 the Communist Party of Great Britain was formed and immediately applied for affiliation to the Labour Party. The application was turned down decisively by the 1921 Annual Conference, as were renewed applications by subsequent Conferences.

Leninist Tactic

The British Communists followed the Leninist tactic of penetrating 'reformist' organisations for the purpose of winning them for armed insurrection and the so-called 'Dictatorship of the Proletariat'. Lenin told his British comrades that they should support Labour's leader, Arthur Henderson 'as the rope supports a hanging man'.

Communist Party members were active in local Labour Parties, as individual members and as delegates from affiliated organisations. Their behaviour in support of the tactic of the 'United Front' caused the National Executive Committee to lay down a condition that delegates to Labour Party committees must individually accept the Constitution and Principles of the Labour Party.

Minor Obstacle

This was a minor obstacle to the Communists, who, under instructions, would agree to accept anything. Their disruptive activities within the Labour Party caused the Annual Conference to adopt a new rule in 1924, on the motion of the Sutton Constituency Labour Party, that no member of the Communist Party was eligible for membership of the Labour Party.

This rule resulted in the disappearance of known Communists as Labour Party members, but in some constituencies the Communists continued to exert an influence as delegates to the Labour Party from affiliated organisations.

In 1928 the Annual Conference laid it down that certain persons could not be delegates to Labour Party committees. These were:

Persons who are members of Political Parties declared by the Annual Conference or by the National Executive Committee in pursuance of Conference decisions to be ineligible for affiliation to the Labour Party.

These disqualifications were carried into the new Party Constitution and Model Rules for Constituency and Local Labour Parties adopted by the Annual Conference in 1929.

Model Rules

The Model Rules also included a provision to the effect that

This Party shall not enter into affiliation with or give support financially or otherwise to any political Party or organisation ancillary or subsidiary thereto declared by the Annual Party Conference of the Labour Party or by the National Executive Committee in pursuance of Conference decisions to be ineligible for membership of the Party.

The reference to ancillary or subsidiary organisations was due to a switch in the 'United Front' tactic. Barred from being members of or delegates to the Labour Party themselves the Communists established a number of 'innocents' clubs', with declared objects that many Labour Party members could support, for the purpose of inveigling Labour Party members into joint action with Communists in support of Communist Party Policy.

In 1930 the National Executive Committee published a list of organisations which were deemed to be ancillary or subsidiary to the Communist Party. A further list was published in 1933 and from time to time since organisations have been added to the List. In every case the National Executive has reported to the Annual Conference to organisations concerned and has received Annual Conference approval of the proscription.

Altogether some 70 organisations have been placed on the proscribed List since 1930 and of these only 11 were organisations not considered to be Communist 'Front' organisations.

Live Organisations

About 30 of the organisations on the List are believed to have gone out of existence or have changed their names leaving 40 live organisations on the current list.

Most of these are 'Friendship' societies and others are offshoots of the World Peace

Campaign. Of the remainder, only two or three are not associated with the Communists. There have been no organisations proscribed since 1953.

At present the Communists are in a sorry plight. There are deep divisions in their own ranks, as the result of the exploding of the Stalin myth and of the brutal suppression of the October revolution in Hungary. They have overcome equally serious crises in the past and no doubt they will recover from the present one.

The Communist Party in this country cannot hope ever to gain power unless it can destroy the Labour Party and the mass organisations which give it support. The poor showing of Communist Party candidates at Parliamentary elections is proof that they cannot succeed by a direct assault on the Labour Party.

Will Continue

It is certain, therefore, that the Communists will continue their 'boring from within' tactics, either by infiltrating into Labour Party organisations or by the setting up of more 'Innocents' clubs'.

In addition to the 'orthodox' Communists, in recent years the Labour Party has suffered from the attention of the 'Trotskyist' Communists. In some respects the activities of the Trotskyists have been more insidious, because while decrying Stalinism they accept fully the Leninist doctrine.

They, too, regard the Labour Party and all social democratic bodies as a barrier to the proletarian revolution. Their numbers are small and their influence limited, but where this influence has been exercised it has been the cause of a great deal of irritation to loyal Party members.

Two Trotskyist organisations have been proscribed and though they no longer exist it is known that there are several rival Trotskyist factions operating in this country at the moment.

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THE LABOUR PARTY — PUBLICATIONS DEPARTMENT

(Continued from page 37)

in the marginal and near-marginal constituencies, greater intensification will depend largely upon the securing and fostering of such 'Information Officers'.

It is important to bear in mind that a satisfactory service of this sort is not possible unless the number of Information Officers is really adequate. The proportion of such workers to the electorate may vary according to the political tasks attempted, but taking the need of the marginal constituencies as the yardstick, a fair, but not over-generous, coverage would probably be achieved where the number of electors per officer was about 350 (i.e. about 100 houses). This means about 150 such officers for a constituency.

A staff-layout, incorporating a well-developed street or sector information service would appear somewhat as follows:

AGENT

Departmental Officers

AREA OFFICER

POLLING DISTRICT OFFICER

Chief Canvasser and Chief Distributor

Street or Sector Information Officers

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